SUBJECT No. 72.

Restoration of minor tanks.

Messrs. Annagiri Shama Rao, Kadur District Board; Chikramanna, Byregowda and Doddavembraliah, Kolar Taluk; and Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Minor tanks in the malnad and in the whole State should be treated in the same way as major tanks in the matter of their restoration. The ryots are unable to do the earthwork themselves. They will be responsible for the maintenance of the tank whether major or minor after it is restored. It is a great hardship to the ryots to have to repair their tanks. The Government may undertake to do the necessary work to such tanks.

Mr. Seshadri Iyengar, Tumkur Municipality.—In the malnad it is sometimes said that no irrigation works are necessary as there is a plentiful supply of rain. Experience shows that this is not true as many of the poorer ryots have been driven to the *makkigaddes*. Minor tanks which will help cultivation greatly are urgently in need of being restored on a large scale in the malnad.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

The rules already provide for the cost of the earthwork being remitted in cases where it is likely to operate as a serious burden and also for the grant of loans for the purpose. Both the malnad and maidan parts of the State are required to be treated alike in the matter of the restoration of minor tanks.

SUBJECT No. 73.

Re-classification of tanks under major and minor.

(*a*) Messrs. Suryanarayana Rao, Tumkur Taluk; and Seshadri Iyengar, Tumkur Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The hardships caused to the ryots in having to do the earthwork of all the minor tanks before their restoration by Government have often been brought to the notice of Government. The ryots are getting poorer and are unable to meet the cost of earthwork and the tanks get deteriorated. All the tanks paying a revenue of less than 300 rupees are treated as minor tanks. This classification must have been made some years ago and remains unaltered. Even a tank paying a revenue of rupees 299-15-0 is treated as a minor tank. If Government cannot undertake the restoration of all minor tanks, whatever revenue they yield, it is solicited that a reclassification be made and that all tanks yielding a revenue of 100 rupees and upwards may be treated as major tanks and their restoration including earthwork undertaken by Government.

(*b*) Work of Public Works Department agency.

Mr. D. Venkataramaiya, Bangalore City Municipality.

(*b*) The existing Public Works Department agency may be utilised for obtaining a definite survey of favourable localities for sinking wells for irrigation, minor projects of irrigation new and old and taking channels from large tanks where there are no ryots and to smaller tanks where there are ryots.

In order to give effect to these proposals, new works of large dimensions may be kept in abeyance for a period of three or four years and the whole energy and skill of

the engineering staff may be utilised to bring minor works to a standard of efficiency.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 74.

Recovery of contributions for repairs of tanks as an arrear of land revenue.

Mr. Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore District Board.

Summary of discussion.—As soon as an estimate for repairing a tank is prepared by the Public Works Department and the ryots or nine-tenths of them holding lands thereunder have executed *muchalikas* agreeing to pay the prescribed contribution, the work may be put in hand and the contribution, if not paid within a specified time, recovered as a revenue demand with interest at one pie per rupee per month. In the case of the Malligere tank in the Chamrajnagar Taluk, the ryots have themselves executed *muchalikas* agreeing to the contribution being recovered as an arrear of land revenue in case of default more than two years ago, but the work has not been sanctioned and the Public Works Department is insisting upon the entire amount of contribution being paid up before the work is commenced. Even if there should be any objection to levy contribution compulsorily from ryots that do not agree to it, it does not apply to cases in which ryots are willing to abide by such a condition.

Mr. Dasappa, Bangalore District Board.—No rule should be passed regarding the compulsory levy of contribution.

Reply of Government.—The case of the Malligere tank referred to by the member will be enquired into. Even under the present rules, Government have allowed works below Rs. 25,000 to be commenced where the full amount of contribution has not been paid and the ryots have executed the necessary *muchalikas*. Each case should be represented separately.

SUBJECT No. 75.

Locking sluices, etc., of tanks and channels.

Messrs. Hutchveere Gowda, Gubbi Taluk; and Hanumantha Rao, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Under all large tanks there should be a system of locking the channel sluices to prevent the needless waste of water. The *nirganti* is not present at all times and water is taken surreptitiously at night. Each sluice should therefore have a separate lock, and water allowed to be taken only at stated intervals.

Reply of Government.—The Deputy Commissioners will be required to ascertain, in consultation with the Public Works Department, the cases in which it is necessary to supply such locks and take the requisite action.

SUBJECT No. 76.

Repairs to branch channels.

Messrs. Padmanna, and Venkatsamiah, Nanjangud Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The present rule directing that the annual repairs of branch channels should be done by ryots is not a good one, as the object of opening branch channels will be frustrated when the ryots neglect to do their work. In the case of the Rampur channel, for instance, the distinction between the main channel and the branch channels has been most arbitrarily made. The repairs of branch channels should also